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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 21, with the following:

As disclosed herein, the present invention discloses a provisioning method that allows for the use of an encryption technique used to protect the communications required to attain the authorization by the server to distribute a set of credentials to a client. While the invention can be particularly applicable to wireless approaches, it can also be used in wired network applications, without departing from the invention. In one embodiment of the invention, the protected communications is achieved by employing a Diffie-Hellman key exchange between the first and second parties 12, 14 to mutually derive a shared secret. Of course, it should be appreciated that any scheme other than the Diffie-Hellman approach can be used without departing from the invention. The shared secret establishes a secure channel, protected by the shared secret. The parties 12, 14 then proceed to authenticate each others credentials to ensure that they haven't each been really talking to an active third-party attacker [[M]] and that they are both the intended client and server. Further, by performing the authentication sequence over a secure channel protected by the shared secret, they do not run the risk of a passive third-party attacker [[E]] attacking the authentication exchange. Once the authentication succeeds, the server may then provision the client with a different set of credentials.